REMARKS

By this Amendment the specification has been amended to improve its presentation, claim 1 has been amended to include the feature of claim 2 (now canceled), to include the feature discussed in the specification on page 4, lines 11-13, and to address the examiner's formality rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, and claims 3 and 4 have been amended to better depend from amended claim 1. Entry is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has objected to the disclosure because the statement on page 3, lines 25-27, appears inconsistent with the brief description of the drawings wherein Fig. 3 (sectional view) and Fig. 4 (side view) are both labeled as corresponding to Fig. 2.

Actually, both the drawings and the specification are correct. Fig. 3 is a cross-section of Fig. 4, and the tube in Fig. 2 has an oval cross-section, such that perpendicular views should vary!

The examiner has rejected claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Posen et al., and he has rejected claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Posen et al.

These rejections must be withdrawn.

Posen et al. disclose a suspension tube with inserted filter elements. When the filter elements and tube are viewed together they may be seen as a suspension tube with alternating wide and narrow section. However,

the wide and narrow sections are formed by altering the internal diameter only of the tube/filter element assembly and thus as the external diameter is not altered, the material thickness of the tube varies along its length in order to produce the alternating wide and narrow sections. This is not the same as a circumferentially-extending bellows without variance in the material thickness. In the present invention, the alternating narrow and wide sections are formed in a tube with uniform material thickness in that the external and internal walls of the tube in unison extend radially alternating towards and away from the centerline of the tube. As explained in the specification, this ensures that vibration waves traveling along the tube are dampened due to the extended travel distance caused by the bellows shape of the tube. This cannot be achieved by Posen et al. as waves may travel along the tube and past the inserted filter without experiencing a prolonged travel distance.

The examiner's prior art rejections should be withdrawn and claims 1, 3 and 4 allowed.

A supplemental page 6 for this application containing an abstract of the disclosure is attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

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Annotated Sheet

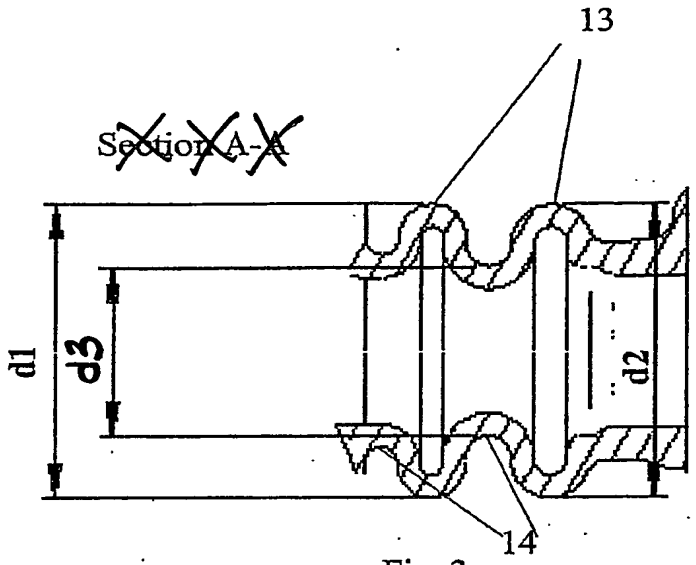

Fig. 3

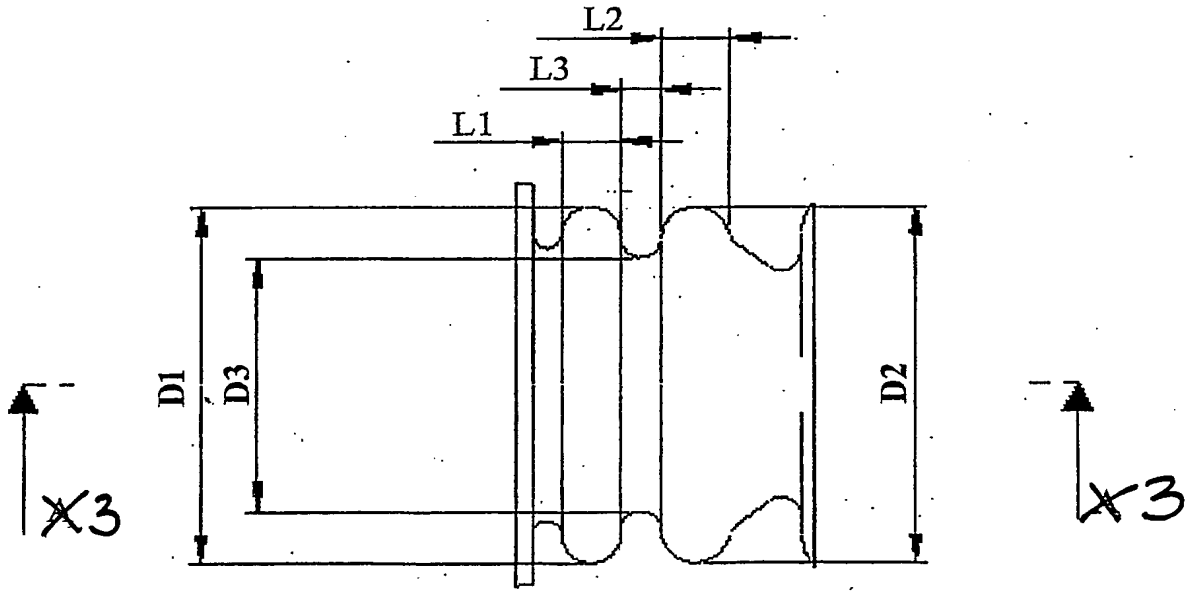

Fig. 4